(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to rationalise the prices of petroleum products to meet the deficit and to curtail the oil import bill;

(b) the extent to which the subsidy on various petroleum products is likely to be reduced thereby;

(c) the details of revenue earnings of the Government from excise, import duties on oil products during the last three years;

(d) the total additional revenue earning of the Government out of the increase of administered prices during the above period;

(e) whether the Government have made any assessment of the implication of the rise of petroleum prices and other commodities; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The Government have been exploring various options to contain the deficit in the pool account and reduce the subsidy on some of the petroleum products. The extent of reduction in subsidy would depend on various factors like international prices, tariff policy and demand etc.

(c) Collection of Revenue from Customs & Excise duties on crude oil and petroleum products during the last three years are as under:

Rs./crores

Year	Customs	Excise
1994-95	6209.01	6694.51
1995-96	8452.89	7160.13
1996-97 (Provisional)	12436.64	9087.41

(d) There was no increase in administered prices petroleum products during 1994-95 and 1995-96. During 1996-97, the prices of petroleum products were increased in July, 1996 and it was estimated that an additional revenue of about Rs. 7000 crores would accrue during 1996-97 to the Oil Pool Account.

(e) and (f) It was estimated that the direct impact on the wholesale price index on account of increase in prices of petroleum products in July 1996 would be around 0.9%.

Capitation Fees

*67. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have instructed the State Governments to take steps to check the collection of capitation fees in educational institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) The practice of charging Capitation Fee by Private Unaided Educational Institutions stand prohibited following the orders passed by the Supreme Court in Mohini Jain and Unnikrishnan cases. These judgements are binding throughout the country. In pursuance of the directions of the Supreme Court in Unnikrishnan's case, the Department of Education, Government of India in consultation with the State Governments has notified a Scheme of determining fee in such institutions. Similarly, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Medical Council of India and Dental Council have also issued similar guidelines for Private Medical and Dental Institutions.

Brain Drain

*68. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment made by Union/State Governments for providing higher education in professional courses during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996;

(b) the number of students who acquired higher education in the above-mentioned courses during the above period and migrated to developed countries of the West and Gulf countries etc., either permanently but holding Indian passports or on short term renewable contract basis; and

(c) if so, the legal steps Government have taken or propose to take in order to recover huge investments made on the higher education of such Indian students?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (c) Total expenditure incurred by the Union and State Governments together for providing higher and technical education during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are Rs. 4121.36 crores, Rs. 4816.02 crores and Rs. 4953.25 crores respectively. Some students who acquire higher education in technical and management fields migrate to other countries for jobs and higher studies. However, no record of such migrants is maintained. The Government has been taking steps to create a positive environment

in the country for retention of such professional talents at home. No legal steps are being contemplated.

Inter-Ministerial Council for Tourism

*69. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Inter-Ministerial Council is proposed to be set up soon for the promotion of tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date by which this council is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c) An advisory 'Board of Tourism Industry and Trade' has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Tourism to advise the Government on various policy matters relating to tourism and to oversee the implementation of the National Strategy for Tourism Development. The members of the Board include Members of Parliament, Secretaries of different Ministries/ Departments, Professionals and representatives of Industry Associations.

[Translation]

Development of N.Hs. by N.H.A.

*70. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India bears the responsibility of extension and development of National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Authority has prepared any action plan for the extension and development of these roads;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any time bound programme has also been prepared to complete this action plan;

(e) if so, the period fixed for the completion of each proposed National Highway; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (f) The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is one of the Executing Agencies of the Central Government for the development and maintenance of National Highways. The Authority takes up only those projects which are entrusted to it by the Central Government. To begin with, the NHAI has been given the responsibility for the development of 4 major corridors linking the metropolitan cities of Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Mumbai and the National Highways leading to major ports. At present, NHAI is doing the feasibility studies on these corridors on the basis of which, the work would be taken up. As such, it is too early to indicate the time frame for the completion of works at this stage.

[English]

Royalty on Crude Oil

*71. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of existing rate of royalty paid for crude oil;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the rate of royalty; and

(c) when the rate was revised last and the norms followed for such revision of royalty?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 the Central Government shall not enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral oil more than once during any period of three years. After considering the recommendations of the Eswaran Committee and discussions with the concerned State Governments, the rate of royalty on crude oil was last fixed at Rs. 481/- per metric tonne for the period 1.4.1993 to 31.3.1993 in February, 1993. For the period 1.4.1993 to 31.3.1996, an 'on account' payment @ Rs. 528/- per metric tonne towards royalty on crude oil was made subject to adjustment on notification of the final rate of royalty and finalisation of crude price in due course. This 'on account' rate of royalty has been increased to Rs. 578/- per metric tonne with effect from 1.4.1996.

For the three year period (1993-94 to 1995-96), the actual weighted cost of production will be worked out on the basis of the figures audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General and the final rate of royalty notified on this basis and necessary adjustments made against the 'on account' payments already made.